

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /063 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ:FLW  
APPROVED BY EA - MR. HURWITZ  
-----142340Z 030480 /70  
P 142204Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056574

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT: ROK MEMORANDUM ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL

BELOW IS THE TEXT OF ROKG MEMORANDUM GIVEN TO US DURING  
VISIT OF FONMIN PAK TO WASHINGTON. MEMORANDUM ITSELF WAS  
NOT DISCUSSED DURING VISIT, AND WE DO NOT INTEND TO MAKE  
ANY REPLY. WE NOTE THAT PARA 4(B) SETS FORTH SPECIFIC  
TENSION-REDUCING MOVES AS CONDITION FOR TROOP WITHDRAWALS.  
THESE WERE NOT REPEAT NOT MENTIONED DURING FONMIN'S DIS-  
CUSSION WITH U.S. OFFICIALS.

QUOTE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WISHES TO SET  
FORTH ITS OBSERVATION AND POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE  
UNITED STATES FORCES IN KOREA AS FOLLOWS:

1. THE UNITED STATES FORCES IN KOREA CAME TO THE REPUBLIC  
OF KOREA IN 1950 PURSUANT TO THE RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL TO HELP REPEL THE UNPRO-  
VOKED NORTH KOREAN AGGRESSION AND RESTORE INTERNATIONAL  
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PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE AREA. SINCE 1953, THE UNITED  
STATES FORCES HAS REMAINED IN KOREA AT THE REQUEST OF THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. FOR THE PAST QUARTER OF A CENTURY, THE UNITED STATES  
FORCES IN KOREA HAS NOT ONLY SERVED AS AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT

AGAINST THE RENEWAL OF HOSTILITIES BY NORTH KOREA BUT ALSO PERFORMED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MAINTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY IN NORTHEAST ASIA WHERE INTERESTS OF CERTAIN MAJOR POWERS INTERSECT DELICATELY.

3. CONTRARY TO THE UNCEASING EFFORTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE TENSIONS AND ESTABLISH GENUINE PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, THE NORTH KOREAN REGIME, NEVER ABANDONING ITS SINISTER SCHEME OF UNIFYING THE COUNTRY UNDER COMMUNISM, HAS BEEN CONTINUING ITS PROVOCATIVE ACTS AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, THEREBY HEIGHTENING TENSION ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT THE NORTH KOREAN REGIME DECLARED PUBLICLY THAT IT HAD COMPLETED PREPARATIONS FOR ANOTHER WAR AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, AND THE DANGER OF ANOTHER CONFLICT BECAUSE OF NORTH KOREAN MISCALCULATION STILL EXISTS. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, ANY UNILATERAL AND PRECIPITOUS WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES FORCES FROM KOREA WOULD BE UNWISE FROM BOTH TACTICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL STANDPOINTS. THE TENSION IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA REPRESENTS IN NATURE THE CONTINUING STRUGGLE AND COMPETITION BETWEEN THE EAST AND THE WEST.

4. BASED ON THE OBSERVATION AS STATED ABOVE, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA STRONGLY BELIEVES:

A) THAT THE VITAL ROLES OF THE UNITED STATES FORCES IN KOREA FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA SHOULD CONTINUE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE CONFIDENTIAL

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UNITED STATES, THEREBY CONTRIBUTING TO THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE IN THE ENTIRE REGION OF THE NORTHEAST ASIA AS WELL;

B) THAT ANY PREMATURE WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES FORCES FROM KOREA SHOULD BE AVOIDED UNTIL AFTER PEACE AND SECURITY ARE INSURED ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA THROUGH SUCH STEPS AS THE CONCLUSION OF A NON-AGGRESSION AGREEMENT AS PROPOSED BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. IT IS ALSO HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT THE CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE IN THE AREA BE ENDORSED INTERNATIONALLY; AND

C) THAT THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT OF 1953 MUST REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENT WILL HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT TO PRESERVE PEACE AND SECURITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA.

5. IT IS ALSO A FIRM BELIEF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA THAT, AS A DIRECTLY CONCERNED PARTY, THE

REPUBLIC OF KOREA SHOULD FIRST AND FULLY BE CONSULTED WITH  
REGARD TO ANY PLAN OF MODIFYING THE PRESENT LEVEL OF  
UNITED STATES FORCES IN KOREA. UNQUOTE

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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009